Amending MMDR Act and MCR

†3092. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act, 1957 and the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 of the States for immediate and time-bound development of mineral-resources available in the States;

(b) if so, the proposed rules and sections;

(c) whether Government propose to devolve all the power pertaining to minerals mentioned in part 'a' and 'c' of the MMDR Act; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) There is no proposal to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 at present.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

Expansion of definition of 'minority communities'

3093. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to expand the definition of 'Minority Communities' to bring various linguistic and religious groups under its purview; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R.ANTULAY): (a) No such decision has been taken.

(b) Does not arise.

Utilization of Solar Energy

3094. SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRIMATI SYEDAANWARATAIMUR:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to put in solar water heating/solar

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.